

Metro Parks' Centennial Art Center Gallery presents:

THREE PHOTOGRAPHERS

Joe Fizer, Randy Muir and Rod Shean

June 6 – 27, Artists' Reception, Friday, June 6, 2008, 5 PM - 7 PM

Nashville TN— Three area photographers – Joe Fizer, Randy Muir and Rod Shean – will exhibit their works June 6 thru June 27 at Metro Parks' Centennial Art Center gallery.

Though his formal influence began at Nashville Tech, Joe Fizer says he considers himself to be "...a self taught photographer and a work in progress..." His inspiration comes from the work of such photographers as Ansel Adams, Edward Weston and Henri Cartier. He says that his passion for photography has taken him across the United States, from "...the coast of Oregon to the shores of Maine to the desert southwest.." Middle Tennessee, though, continues to draw him back to capture some places that fill his memories as a boy growing up in Nashville. Fizer's color and black and white photographs have been published as posters, in books and in magazines. Also a fine art photographer, many of those works are included in private and corporate collections. Fizer is represented by numerous galleries and art retailers. Joe says he is "...presently concentrating on two distinct projects; documenting a photographic journey of the Natchez Trace and capturing an ever expanding circle of Middle Tennessee memories." To see examples of Joe Fizer's photography, visit www.joefizerphotography.com/Site/Home.html.



SHELBYSCAPE - photograph by Joe Fizer

Randy Muir will be exhibiting recent works combining his photography with his poetry. He says that his important influences are Ansel Adams, Elliott Porter, Galen Rowell, Joseph Muench,

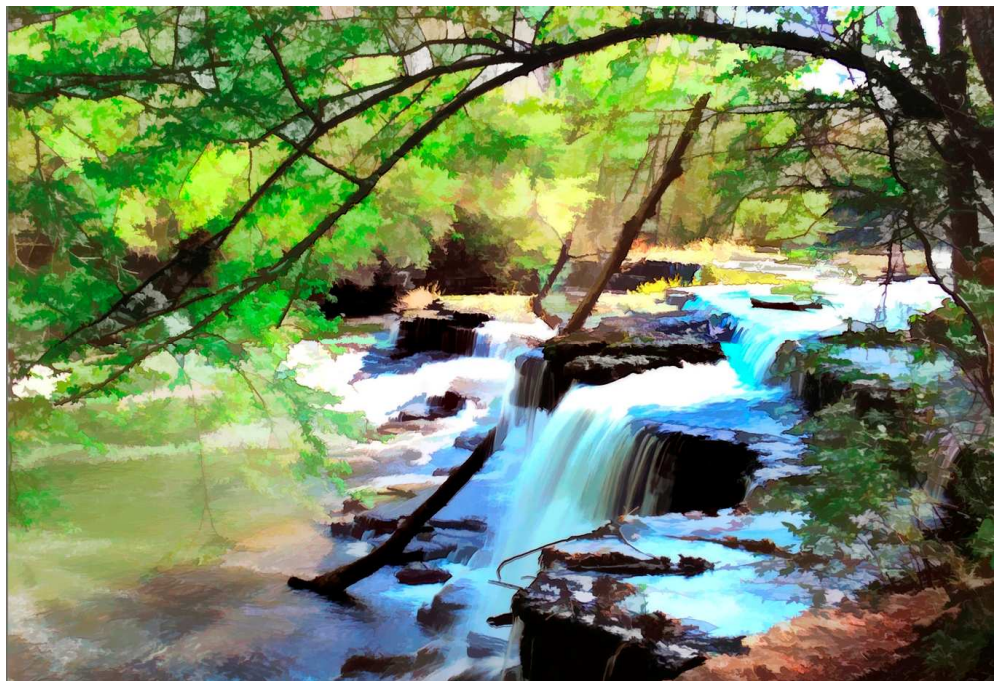
John Netherton and Freeman Patterson, as well as painters Andrew Wyeth, Gauguin, and Georgia O'Keeffe and poets Tagore and Basho. Among his inspirations, he includes, "...parks, mountains, beaches, landscapes, fall and spring, bagpipes, clear country skies at night and traveling... I enjoy being able to have the calm and quiet to be more contemplative ... rather than just observing the externals." About his own works, he shares, "I take pictures and write poetry, mainly of the outdoors... Quality is much more important than quantity... I try to always carry my camera and spare paper and pens so I'm better prepared, if an occasion were to present itself. I never take "machine gun photography," taking a bunch of pictures hoping that something will turn out. The same with my poetry. I rarely rewrite anything." As to his process, he says he enjoys the challenges and demands color slide film present, but also enjoys using Kodachrome, Ektachrome VS and Fujichrome. Muir elaborates, "I use 35mm format cameras. The automatic ones are okay and occasionally are actually preferable, because you can just point and shoot, but my favorite is actually strictly manual." Go to www.artsnashville.org/registry/?scan=az&main=artist&id=157 for more information about Randy Muir.



Photograph and Poetry – by Randy Muir

Rod Shean's life as a photographer began as a boy, around the age of ten. He says, "I started with a darkroom in my closet at home. In high school, I worked on the journalism staff and while in college worked as a photo-engraver for the local newspaper... In the late 80's, I owned a one hour photo lab and portrait studio. I did well with the studio and weddings. After selling the lab and studio, my photography was put on the back burner as I worked as a manager and later as a VP for a major software company." A few years ago, his position was downsized, he moved his family to Tennessee, and once again got involved with photography. This time, his approach was quite different. He shares, "I started experimenting with digital cameras and manipulating photographs through modern technology to create the appearance of a fine art watercolor or oil painting. It started as a whim, and as I became more proficient, friends suggested that I should seriously look into selling my work... Over the past year, I have become skillful at my craft of being a Digital Artist." As to his process, he reveals, "I take the best picture I possibly can, process it with Photoshop to get it just the way I want, and then use a variety of programs and techniques to achieve the look of an oil or watercolor. I may use several different techniques before I achieve the final image. This can take many hours or days before I am happy with the final product. It is then printed using a Giclee process similar to or the same as the process

used by many fine museums today.” He now creates everything from note cards to large canvas pieces. Visit his website www.rodsphotography.com to view his portfolio.



WATERFALL AT STONE FORT TN - digitally enhanced photograph by Rod Shean

Of this trio of photographers, Centennial Art Center's gallery manager, Lena A. Lucas says, "The breadth and scope of works possible within photography has always intrigued me. Joe's keen eye for composition and visual tension, Randy's blend of visual and actual poetry, and Rod's painter's instinct and passion for color well demonstrate that variety. Anyone who doubts the validity of photography as a true art form should see this exhibit..." The Center's Director, Brenda McSurley, says, "We are really looking forward to exhibiting these three photographers works. All lovers of photography, and those who wonder about new directions in it, should not miss this exhibit or miss the chance to meet and talk to the artists at their opening reception!"

The public is invited to attend the special opening reception in honor of Joe Fizer, Randy Muir and Rod Shean on Friday, June 6, from 5 PM - 7 PM. Admission is free and refreshments will be served. Centennial Art Center (www.nashville.gov/parks/cac.htm) is located in the 25th Avenue North and Park Plaza Corner of Nashville's Centennial Park, and is open Monday through Friday, 9 AM to 5 PM. For further information or directions, call (615) 862-8442. To view the full Metro Parks' Centennial Art Center gallery Schedule, go to: www.nashville.gov/parks/cac_exhibit_schedule.htm.